

REMARKS

Interview summary: An interview by telephone was held on September 13, 2006 between Examiner Boutah and the undersigned. It was agreed that claim 1 and the claims depending from claim 1 were allowable over the Abdelnur-Boutcher combination. The Examiner indicated that claims 16 and 18 would be allowable if amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 1.

Comments on amendments: Independent claim 18 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 1 and is understood to be in condition for allowance. Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are cancelled, and dependent claims 21, 23, 24, and 25 are amended for consistency with the base claim. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and the claim cancellations are made without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of the original claims (prior to amendment) and subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent prosecution. Claims 1, 3-7, 18, and 21-25 remain, and reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

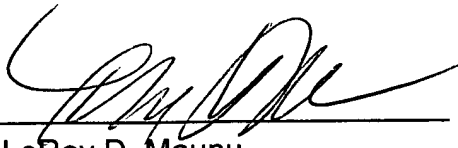
Traversal of rejection

The rejection of claims 1, 3-7 and 16-25 under 35 USC §103(a) over "Abdelnur" (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,640 to Abdelnur et al.) in view of "Boutcher" (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,768 to Boutcher) is respectfully traversed. For at least the reasons set forth in the previously filed Amendment, the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the remarks set forth above. No extension of time is believed to be necessary for consideration of this response. However, if an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition for a sufficient number of months for consideration of this response. If there are any additional fees in connection with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HPCO.027PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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